

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

INFO USIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION--ADMIRAL BAGLEY VISIT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT REPORT OF ADMIRAL BAGLEY PRESS CONFERENCE
WHICH APPEARED IN NORWAY'S LARGEST DAILY, AFTENPOSTEN,
FEBRUARY 23:

"NORWAY ITSELF MUST EVALUATE THE SECURITY-POLITICAL
CONSEQUENCES OF THE OIL DISCOVERIES IN THE NORTH SEA," SAID
AMERICAN ADMIRAL WORTH A. BAGLEY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN
OSLO FRIDAY. ADMIRAL BAGLEY IS SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE
AMERICAN NAVAL FORCES IN EUROPE, INCLUDING THE SIXTH
FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND UNITS IN THE WESTERN
APPROACHES TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE HAS VISITED NORWAY
IN ORDER TO HAVE TALKS WITH NORWEGIAN DEFENSE AND NAVAL
LEADERS. EARLIER THIS WEEK ADMIRAL BAGLEY VISITED
DENMARK AND FINLAND.

"FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING THE WAR IN VIETNAM,
THE AMERICAN NAVY FOR A LONG TIME LACKED FUNDS FOR
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MODERNIZATION, WHILE THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUED TO

LAUNCH NEW SHIPS," THE ADMIRAL SAID. TODAY THE AMERICAN NAVY IS IN THE MIDST OF A PROGRAM OF MODERNIZATION, BUT THE INCREASED COST OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT WILL LEAD TO A REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF NEW SHIPS. THIS AGAIN MEANS THAT IT WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE NAVY TO MAINTAIN ALL ITS COMMITMENTS. REFERRING TO THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH SEA, HE NOTED THAT THE SITUATION TODAY IS SUCH THAT NEW ENGAGEMENTS, OR COMMITMENTS, FOR THE AMERICAN NAVY WOULD MEAN THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO RENOUNCE ON OTHERS.

COMMENTING ON THE KEFLAVIK BASE, THE ADMIRAL SAID IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPENSATE FOR A LOSS OF THE BASE BY THE USE OF CARRIERS. HE ALSO SAID THE SOVIET UNION RECENTLY HAS BEGUN USING A NEW TYPE OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINE ARMED WITH MISSILES WITH A GREATER RANGE THAN ANY EARLIER TYPE. THERE IS A HIGH PRIORITY IN THE UNITED STATES ON DEVELOPING NEW ARMS FOR SUBMARINE WARFARE, SAID ADMIRAL WORTH A. BAGLEY. VOTH

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